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COMMENT OF THE DAY

CYPRUS ISSUE

THE Cyprus issue has been temporarily settled to the satisfaction of the United Nations General Assembly for this year. But the wording of the resolution is rather vague and there is no doubt that Greece will raise the question again as soon as she is able to do so. The accord with which the Assembly voted, especially Greece, is admirable although it might appear that the Greek representative, realising that he could not win a favourable vote, decided to change his mind and agree with the majority, thereby leaving behind an excellent impression of co-operation which might stand him in good stead at the next opportunity. On the other hand it is possible that Greece saw the weakening of the new alliance with Turkey and Yugoslavia and the detrimental effect her attitude was having on the NATO powers. Indeed the Turkish delegate, referring to relations between the three countries, said that the alliance must be kept intact and that no obstacle should be put in the path of the further development of those friendly relations.

GREECE has been charged with concocting an artificial uproar at a time when relations between the three countries and the United Kingdom are beginning to have a favourable effect on the minds of the people. Already there are signs of a subversive force at work in Athens, Salonika and Nicosia stirring up emotions that could easily get out of control. The Greek emphasis placed on "self-determination" by the Greeks and supported by the Soviet bloc poses the question "Wore the Latvians, Bulgarians, Poles, Czechs and East Germans given the opportunity of self-determination?" They were not and it is intriguing that the Soviet bloc showed deep concern for this principle. There is no doubt that in time the island will have self-government but the course must be run slowly and Britain must not allow her hand to be forced by outside influences. Britain has a duty to the large Turkish population of the island and it is therefore unthinkable that Cyprus should be handed to Greece on a vote for that is exactly what the Greeks are after.

BATTLE FOR RATIFICATION BEGINS

Adenauer Wins Round 1 MR FRANCE: DEBATE NOT TO BE DELAYED

PROSPECTS STILL GOOD

London, Dec. 16.

The first round of the battle for ratification of the Paris agreements began in Bonn and Paris tonight as Russia increased the pressure of its war of nerves on its one last hope of salvation—the French Assembly.

There were these developments in Paris and Bonn tonight:

- The West German Bundestag (lower house) tonight defeated a Social Democratic motion calling for immediate Big Four talks with Russia and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer thus won the first round of his fight for ratification of the Paris agreements;
- The Parliamentary Opposition to the French Premier Pierre Mendes-France appeared tonight to be amassing its forces for an attack on the Government but it appeared that the Opposition would not launch its assault until after the vote on the ratification of the Paris treaties;
- Extreme right-wing deputies will make an effort to postpone the whole debate on the grounds that the Germans are not acting in good faith about the Franco-German Saar agreement but they are not expected to be followed by the majority of the Assembly;
- The Defence Committee of the French National Assembly rejected a report recommending conditional approval of German rearmament but the vote was not considered a defeat for M. Mendes-France, according to observers;
- Despite the new Russian threat to terminate the Franco-Soviet friendship treaty if the Paris agreements are ratified by the French Assembly, M. Mendes-France plans to begin the debate on ratification of the agreements on Monday as arranged.

IN BONN Chancellor Konrad Adenauer tonight won the first round of his battle for ratification of the Paris agreements on West German rearmament and the Saar. The Bundestag, by an overwhelming show of hands, voted to send the ratification bills to the appropriate committees for study before the second and third readings, probably in January. The vote came at the end of two days of full debate on the first reading.

Dr Adenauer's strength in the Lower House of Parliament was indicated in a previous test, on an Opposition Socialist motion aimed at delaying ratification of the treaties, which will rearm 500,000 West Germans.

By a vote of 238 to 153, the Bundestag rejected the Socialist-sponsored motion calling for postponement of ratification of the Paris treaties until a new Big Four conference on German reunification could be held.

Not A Defeat

Paris, Dec. 16. The Defence Committee of the French National Assembly tonight rejected a report recommending conditional approval of German rearmament, but the vote was not considered a defeat for Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

M. Mendes-France has insisted that the London and Paris agreements to rearm West Germany and admit her to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation be accepted by the National Assembly without amendment.

Thereafter, the Committee voted actually rejecting the Premier in refusing to accept a report which did recommend changes. The report had favoured the Western European Union, entry of Germany into NATO and the Saar agreement, but only with the important proviso that a permanent body be established in Germany to negotiate with the Russians on Allied evacuation and German reunification.

for an attack on the government. But Parliamentary manoeuvring indicated that at least some of the opposition hoped to postpone its assault until after the vote on the ratification of the Paris accords.

Thus, Edouard, Frederic-Dupont, who was Minister for the Associated States of Indo-China in the last phase of the Laniel government, has proposed the postponement of the discussion of the controversial Indo-China budget.

The National Assembly's Finance Committee has rejected the Indo-China budget, and the Cabinet has authorised M. Mendes-France to ask for a formal vote on confidence in the budget debate.

Mr Frederic-Dupont's proposal would have the effect of putting off a showdown on this issue, until after the Paris agreements have been acted upon by the Assembly.

NO DELAYS

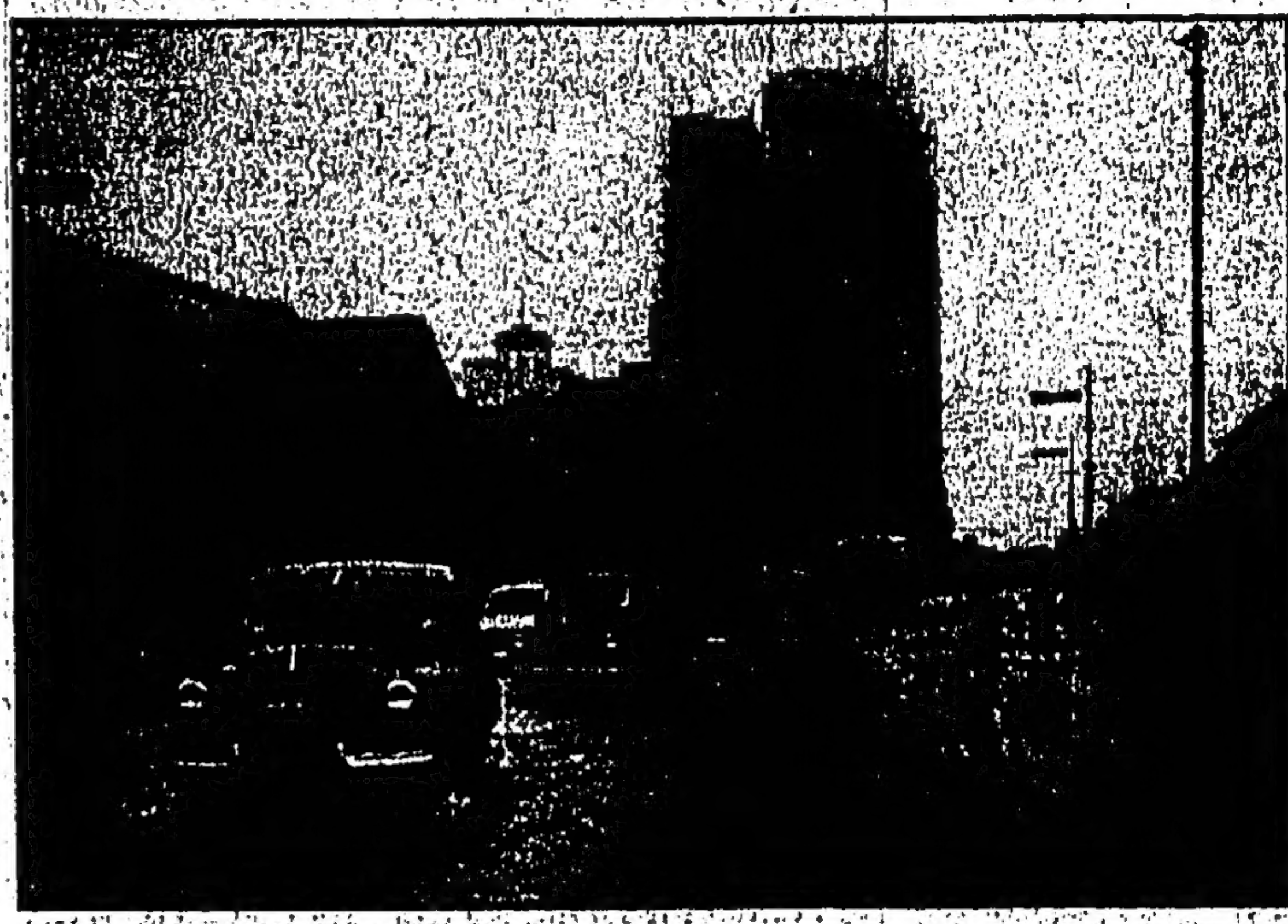
The Soviet threat to terminate the Franco-Soviet friendship treaty if the Paris agreements on the rearmament of West Germany are ratified by the French Parliament will leave the Parliamentary programme laid down by the Government unaltered, it was learned tonight.

The debate for the ratification of the Paris agreements will start on Monday as arranged and will in principle last three days.

If the Government puts a question of confidence, the vote will only be able to be taken on Christmas Day.

(Contd on back page, Col. 2)

Floods Continue In Southern Malaya



These two Straits Times pictures show the flooding in Singapore and southern Malaya which resulted from the heavy rains of last week. Above is a photograph of a Singapore street under about eight inches of water; and below is a photograph of a Malayan family paddling to the front door of their flooded home. Yesterday, British Forces in Malaya threw their weight into rescue work in what threatened to be the worst floods in Malayan history.

After eight days, the southern Malayan peninsula just north of the Equator was still receiving some of the worst tropical downpours in years. While 50,000 people who had been either driven from their homes or stranded in them waited for the floods to recede, fresh trouble threatened in the central Malaya state of Pahang, where the Pahang River threatens to burst its banks. Royal Navy helicopters and Royal Air Force transport planes today skimmed low over the jungle dropping food supplies and dry blankets to villagers stranded on high ground along the south-east coast—Reuters.

Two Quakes Rock 4 American States

Reno, Nevada, Dec. 16. Two earthquakes rocked a 300,000-square-mile area of four Western States today, rousing thousands of people from their sleep and causing minor damage to highways and buildings.

No injuries were reported. The two rolling quakes were felt throughout all Nevada, in most of California and in parts of Utah and Oregon.

Plaster fell from the ceilings and walls, cracks appeared and a chimney was loosened in Nevada 80-year-old capital at Carson City.

DROPPED 2 1/2 FEET

A 50-foot section of Trans-Continental Highway 50 dropped two and a half feet. Large boulders rolled on to the pavement at Carroll Summit and large cracks appeared in the roadway many places. Traffic was detoured around the damaged areas.

The quakes were felt from Los Angeles to the Oregon border and from Salt Lake City to Western Arizona. The tremors had a rolling motion without the sharp jolt which caused heavy damage to buildings and irrigation systems and injured several people into this summer in Western Nevada.—United Press

Labour Party Plans For 1955 Election

London, Dec. 17. The British Labour Party has sent out a warning to its 680 local organisations throughout Britain to prepare for a General Election next year.

Mr Morgan Phillips, General Secretary of the party, in a special message to the 600,000 member movement, said: "There are strong indications" of an election in 1955.

He declared that the party "can and must win it." He announced the Labour Executive Committee had decided to organise a nationwide propaganda and organisation campaign in the early months of 1955.

A three-fold campaign would seek to polarise various aspects of policy set out in Labour's already published manifesto, "Challenge to Britain," would seek to raise the party's membership and would try to bring its fighting machine to the highest pitch of efficiency.—Reuters

M.C.C. DISASTER: 7 WICKETS FALL FOR 88 RUNS

Sydney, Dec. 17.

England made a disastrous start in the second Test match against Australia today, having lost seven wickets for 88 runs.

The rot started shortly after lunch, when Hutton was out to a good low catch by Davidson off Bill Johnston for 30.

Davidson dived to his right and took the ball inches above the ground to dislodge the England skipper.

England, who had earlier reached 50 in 100 minutes, was then 88.

There was a further shock for the visitors' two overs later when Gravetye was out to a good catch by Fayall off Bill Johnston for 21 and England was four down for only 89.

Reuter, Tyson and Evans followed in quick succession.

Arthur Morris, who captained Australia in the absence of injured Ian Johnson, won the toss and sent England in to bat on a wicket with two "doubtful" patches owing to heavy overnight rain. But commentators said the pitch played well, though an occasional ball lifted awkwardly.

MAGNIFICENT ATTACK

The Australian opening attack was described as "magnificent," with Ray Lindwall yielding 21 runs for one wicket in seven overs, and Ron Archer four runs for one wicket in the same number of overs.

HUTTON'S 12 RUNS

The first 20 minutes of play produced 12 runs, all from Hutton's bat, against the attack of Ray Lindwall and Archer. Lindwall bowled an "umbrella" field—four slips, one cover point, two short legs and a silly mid-on.

At lunch, Hutton was 19 n.o. and Gravetye 7 n.o.

The teams are:

England—L. Hutton, T. E. Bailey, P. B. H., May, C. Cowdrey, F. B. W. Gravetye, V. J. Edrich, T. G. Evans, F. Tyron, F. H. Wardle, J. B. Statham, R. Apthorpe.

Australia—A. Morris, R. Benaud, A. Davidson, I. A. Fayall, N. Harvey, G. Hole, J. Burke, W. Johnston, G. Langley, R. Lindwall and Ron Archer.

SCOREBOARD

M.C.C. 1st Innings	
Bailey b Lindwall	70
May c Johnston b Archer	5
Hutton c Davidson b Johnston	30
Gravetye c Fayall b Edrich	21
Edrich c Benaud b Archer	10
Cowdrey b n.o.	0
Tyson b Lindwall	0
Evans c Langley b Archer	2
Reuter	0
Total 88	88

Russia Plans Rouble Diplomacy In Southeast Asia, Says M.P.

From Our Own Correspondent

British politicians have been told that Russia may be stepping up gold production in a bid to lay foundations of a Rouble diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

The warnings came from Conservative M.P. Frederick James Erroll who recently returned from Russia. Mr Erroll is an authority on both gold and its mining for he is both a qualified engineer and a director of Ashanti Goldfields Corporation in West Africa.

When he visited Russia with the British Parliamentary delegation, he asked especially to be shown Soviet methods of gold mining.

In closely guarded mines at Sverdlovsk behind the Urals he saw enough to make him report to "high-level British authorities as soon as he returned to London."

Tonight he said: "Without a doubt the Russians have stepped up gold production to a high degree of priority. They have only begun to do so fairly recently. The gold workings I saw at Sverdlovsk started only in 1951. Already they are bringing about a thousand tons of reef to the surface daily in one mine alone."

To do this, Mr Erroll said, economic planners in Moscow diverted brains, manpower and machinery vitally needed in other major industries.

Mr Erroll, who took full advantage of the opportunity to look around during his stay in Russia, has two main reasons to explain the sudden expansion of Russian gold production.

One is the need for gold to finance the Russian timber and grain production. The other is the need for gold to finance the Russian economic and political operations in the eastward.

Christmas Issue Tomorrow

The China Mail tomorrow publishes its Christmas issue and for the occasion it has selected from a wide range of features prepared in different parts of the world the very best articles, short-stories and commentaries.

In addition to our Christmas features, however, we shall continue to publish all our regular favourites such as Giles, Jane Roberts' film reviews, Les Amours, horoscopes, pictorial, and a local diary of the week in pictures.

Fabulous Lady, Nancy Spaul's story of Gertrude Lawrence, ends this week and there is another article in the series on INTERPOL and their investigations into international crime.

Leonard Mosley suggests that you find a lonely person and share your cheer with him this Christmas.

The Rev. P. B. (Tubby) Clayton, founder of Too-H and Chaplain to the Queen, says: "DON'T FORGET THE ORPHANS IN CHRISTMAS and tell you how to make Christmas mean more to you."

Here are some of the Christmas features ready for you in tomorrow's China Mail:

A. J. Forrest recounts some legends behind the Christmas scene in **FREIGHTS GHOSTS WALK AT CHRISTMAS**.

How good is your memory? We recall some highlights of the year but in the narrative there are some blanks which YOU have to fill in.

How good is your memory? We recall some highlights of the year but in the narrative there are some blanks which YOU have to fill in.

KING'S PRINCESS

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

★ FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY ★

Master SIM • ROSE SHINER
Class BLOOM • Margaret RUTHERFORD
Celia DAUPHIN • Lorraine HARVEY
and Jimmy EDWARDS

AN ANATOLI DE GRUNWALD'S Star Studied

Innocents in Paris

One of the Funniest British Pictures you have ever seen

★ TO-MORROW ★

LI LI-HWA
THE BEAUTY AND THE DUMB
A CHINESE FILM IN MANDARIN DIALOGUE

WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CAPITOL LIBERTY

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.25 & 9.40 P.M.
LIBERTY ON WIDE SCREEN

Knights of Round Table

M-G-M'S FIRST PRODUCTION
IN
CINEMASCOPE

ROBERT TAYLOR • AVA GARDNER • MEL FERRER
ANNIE CRAWFORD • STANLEY BAKER

With Perspecta Stereophonic Sound

LEE GREAT WORLD

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

COMMENCING TO-DAY

THEY'RE IN THE *Ladies' Army* NOW!

Francis JOINS THE WAGS

DONALD O'CONNOR
JULIA ADAMS • CHILL WILLS • MAMIE VAN DOREN
LYNN BARR • ZASU PITTS • and FRANCIS the Talking Mule!

A UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

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ENGLAND v. GERMANY
at LEE THEATRE only
Fresh Gaumont British News

SHOWING TO-DAY

MAJESTIC

AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

ON OUR GIANT WIDE SCREEN!

GLYNIS JOHNS
ROBERT NEWTON
DONALD SINDEN

THE BEACHCOMBER

HOTEL MIRAMAR GOLD ROOM

The ideal place to enjoy your evening DINE & WINE
UNDER THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF MR. HENRY A. ANETTE

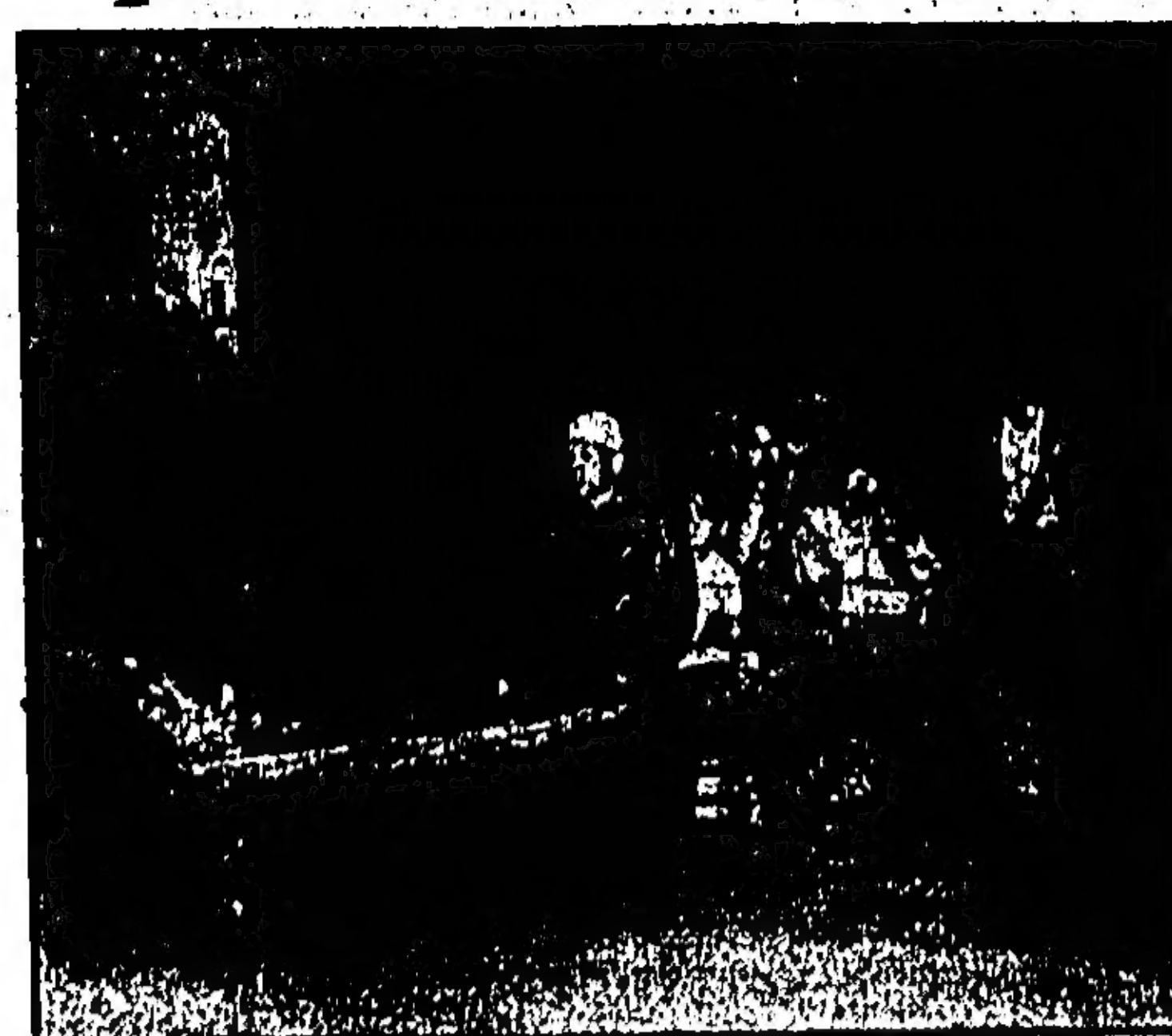
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Music by
ANTONIO AREVALO & HIS BAND
with our popular Soprano Star
TINA LAINE
Singing during the Festival Season

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U.S. MAY CUT ARMY



A flood scene in Singapore last week.—Straits Times Photo.

Threat Of Global Atomic War Diminished

Washington, Dec. 16.

A Defence Department source said today that the Administration is reviving its once-scrapped plan to cut military manpower to about 2,800,000 by mid-1957.

Such a drastic slash would be in line with the Administration's position that the threat of global atomic war has diminished, permitting a smaller military force for the long pull of the cold war.

Also in the background are the facts that the Administration is faced with a \$3,000,000,000 budget deficit in the coming fiscal year and the military represents one of the biggest areas for economising.

The Defence Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Wilson, gave the tip-off that the Administration had turned once again to plans for cutting military manpower strength when he said last night that the active forces would be reduced to "something less" than the 3,047,000-man figure to be reached by next June 30.

LEVELLING OFF

The 3,047,000-man figure previously had been set as the levelling off point after a battle by the Services against a long-range plan to cut military strength to 2,815,000 by mid-1957.

The 3,047,000 figure represents a 210,268 reduction from current strength and 500,000 from what it was when President Eisenhower took office.

The decision to revive the old 2,815,000-man objective was reached only in recent days. It was reached at a time when defence officials were completing a military budget for the coming fiscal year on the assumption that manpower strength would be continued at the 3,047,000 level.

Revival of the plan portends further re-deployment of American troops in the Far

East, where the United States has one Marine and three Army divisions.

During the past year, two Army divisions have been withdrawn from the Far East, greatly relieving the Army's manpower burden.

When the old plan of reducing to 2,816,000 men was scrapped last Summer, Dr. John A. Hannah, then Assistant Defence Secretary for Manpower, said it was because a new appraisal showed "we are going to require more men than contemplated" in the Far East.

He said that defence planners "originally figured we would be able to pull a good share out of the Far East."

FEELS SAFE

Defence sources said today, however, that abandonment of the old plan was based on temporary conditions and that the Administration now feels safe in reviving it.

The sources did not elaborate on what the temporary conditions were, but at the time the Indo-China war was reaching a crisis and the Administration was considering the possibility of intervening.—United Press.

Body For Sale

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 16.

There was a buyer here today for the life of Satoshi Horita, the frustrated 22-year-old Japanese who offered in Tokyo on Tuesday to "sell out" for 70,000 yen — \$195 in American money.

Mr. David Segal, owner of Radio Station KUDL here and KOSI in Denver, said he would bail Horita out of debt if Horita for one year would wear T-shirt bearing the inscription:

"In Kansas City it's KUDL—In Denver it's KOSI—America's best."

Mr. Segal said he would furnish a half-dozen T-shirt and would make payment in any form Horita specified.

"All I need is his shirt size," Mr. Segal said.

Horita has not yet been informed of the offer.

Horita had parked himself at the side of a busy Tokyo street with a placard running his neck which read: "This body for sale for 70,000 yen."

He found passers-by either curious and unwilling to buy or willing to buy and too curious. Horita told reporters he had received two offers.

"I instinctively sensed he was crooked," he said about his first prospective client.

"He said he would not tell me what he needed me for until I signed a contract. I did not like that and refused."

The second prospective buyer told Horita he wanted him as a baker for "work at night."

"But the bad part came after that," Horita said. "He told me I must be at his complete disposal, obey every order and even have a finger cut off as a token of my obedience."

TOO CHEAP

Horita confessed that from now on he might have to be less particular about who bought him.

He said he had changed his placard which originally read: "This life for sale." Police thought this was too "cheap." He took their advice and advertised his body instead.—United Press & China Mail Special.

Red Officials

Fail Tests

London, Dec. 17.

Communist literary cadres (officials) were found to be extremely ignorant through a simple intelligence test conducted by the East China Cultural Bureau, says the Communist Chinese Literary Gazette, a fortnightly from Peking.

Over 70 per cent of the cadres did not know the Party's agricultural task according to the "general line" during the "transition period," the periodical said.

Some cadres regarded Urunchi (capital of Sinkiang Province) as the name of a President of some country, while others said the Central American Republic, Guatemala was the name of a person.

Over 50 persons gave a wrong answer to the question "What are the three countries in Indo-China?" (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos).

Literary units were blamed for taking no leadership in the cadres' studies.—China Mail Special.

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AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.40 P.M.

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Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT
WEBB • ALLISON • BRETHERTON • BACALL • MCMURRAY • DAILEY • WILDE

ADDED ATTRACTION! "THE CINEMASCOPE PARADE" in TECHNICOLOR

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FIRST SHOWING IN KOWLOON!
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

Errol FLYNN
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CROSSED SWORDS
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GREGORY PECK
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COMING TO LEE and GREAT WORLD

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QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

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ADVENTURES OF **DON JUAN**
"TECHNICOLOR"
ERROL FLYNN VIVECA LINDBORS

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2 SHOWS ONLY AT 2.30 & 5.30 P.M.

Blasting story of the BIG KILL!
FIGHTER ATTACK
in Thrilling COLOR
ALLIED ARTISTS PRODUCTION
STERLING HAYDEN JOY PAGE CARROL NASH
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A FRENCH PICTURE with ENGLISH SUBTITLES
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CHESTER ERSKINE presents
BARBARA STANWYCK
No one would believe what she saw that night... not the police... not her friends... no one—but the murderer himself!

GEORGE SANDERS GARY MERRILL
WITNESS TO MURDER
Topping The Thrills of "DOUBLE INDEMNITY" and "SORRY, WRONG NUMBER"

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ORIENTAL

4 SHOWS TO-DAY
2.20—4.45—7.15 & 9.40 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF SHOWING TIMES

ON OUR GIANT WIDE SCREEN

WINNER OF VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 1954!

THE J. ARTHUR BANE ORGANIZATION PRESENTS
Romeo and Juliet
in Technicolor
LAURENCE HARTY • SUSAN SHENTALL • FLORANOBSON
NORMAN WOODLAND • MERVYN JOHNS with BOB TRAVERS
Carmel Myers • Lorne RAYBURN • Adapted for the screen and Directed by ARTHUR BANE

Carpeted

SNOWCEM
Waterproof Cement
Cement
Cement

TUNISIAN QUESTION In Honour Of The "Water Imp"

BULLS LOSE INTEREST IN FIGHTING

Luanga, Angola, West Africa, Dec. 17. Sportmen here are now facing their greatest problem—how to keep bulls fierce in the local climate. Already in the town of Ba Da Bando the rickety bull-ring stands empty and deserted because the local bulls just do not care for fighting.

Down in Lobito Bay, the fans have had extra-special fierce bulls imported from Portugal but after one or two brave shows the local bovine lassitude got them.

One suggestion is that instead of recruiting bulls either locally or overseas, a few wild buffalo should be captured. They always seem to be in a bad temper. Others feel that rhino would be more suitable and exciting.—China Mail Special.

CHURCHILL PRESSED FOR ATOMIC STATEMENT

London, Dec. 16. Sir Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, resisted requests in the House of Commons today for an exact statement about the number of atomic and nuclear explosions that would make the atmosphere lethal over substantial areas of the world.

He said he was frequently in touch with his advisers who did not think the moment had been reached for him to make a definite final appreciation to the Commons on the subject.

Mr Philip Noel Baker, a former Labour Minister, suggested that the Prime Minister should ask his advisers to furnish him with the many statements made by Japanese and American scientists.

They had had special opportunities for studying the question and the "grave danger inherent in atomic explosions."

He asked whether the Prime Minister would consider suspending further tests.

Sir Winston Churchill replied: "I was not aware of any test that were in immediate prospect under the control of this country."—Reuter.

U.N. Confident Countries Can Solve Issue UNANIMOUS VOTE

United Nations, Dec. 16. The United Nations Main Political Committee voted unanimously today not to consider further the Tunisian question with the confidence that the Franco-Tunisian negotiations now underway would satisfactorily solve the issue.

The vote was 54-0 in favour of a moderate resolution put forward by 14 Asian-African nations after last-minute compromises with Latin American and other delegates to remove any possible suggestion of doubt that might hamper the French-Tunisian talks.

Australia, South Africa and Britain abstained from voting on the grounds that the U.N. was not competent to intervene in the matter at all. France boycotted the debate and Guatemala and Liberia were also absent when the vote was taken.

The display of unanimity on the resolution was hailed by most members as a tribute to the French Premier, M. Pierre Mendès-France, and there were repeated declarations of praise for his efforts and of confidence in his intentions to solve the problem. The resolution, which has preoccupied the U.N. for the past four years.

CONFIDENCE
The original resolution was assumed of overwhelming support by a final change by which the General Assembly "expresses confidence that the said negotiations will bring about a satisfactory resolution."

The United States, which originally had urged that no resolution at all be adopted as inadvisable at this time, voted for the amended resolution.

The U.S. representative, Mr James Wadsworth, said: "I made

Ex-Guardsman Guilty But Insane

Winchester, Dec. 16. A 40-year-old former Irish Guardsman, George Condon, charged here with the murder of his former landlady, Mrs Eva Elsie Kenworthy, 62, was today found guilty but insane.

He was ordered to be detained at Broadmoor criminal lunatic asylum "until the Queen's pleasure be known"—indefinitely. He had pleaded not guilty.—China Mail Special.

It clear that the United States believed that no resolution would be desirable at this time. In view of the auspicious atmosphere in which the discussion was conducted, I am glad that we were able to vote in favour of this revised resolution. In effect, by expressing confidence, we are saying to both parties: we trust you to carry on these negotiations to a successful conclusion."

"As such, I trust a resolution of this type will help to maintain the favourable atmosphere which has so much promise for both sides."

The resolution must now be adopted by the General Assembly, but the 54-0 vote made passage there by a two-thirds majority a foregone conclusion.

The British delegate, Sir Pierson Dixon, said he would have preferred no resolution because of "M. Mendès-France's efforts and the evidence that we might expect the negotiations to lead shortly to a final result."

COULD NOT ACCEPT
He said Britain could not accept the resolution as purely procedural and this thus raised the question of U.N. competence.

"But everything I have said," he concluded, "and all that was said in debate here and on Morocco, shows that we have the utmost confidence in the intentions and ability of the French Government to solve these problems."—United Press.

Japan Will Look Both Ways

London, Dec. 17. The New Statesman and Nation forecast today that Mr Ichiro Hata, the new Japanese Prime Minister, would "revert to Japan's traditional policy of looking both ways."

This leftwing weekend review said of the successor to Mr Yoshida: "An enemy of Communism, he yet wants increased trade with Russia and China."

It recalled a recent statement by Mr Mamoru Shigemitsu, the new Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier that Japan was "willing to restore normal relations with the Soviet Union and Communist China, on mutually acceptable terms," but that priority would go to "our basic collaboration within the free nations."

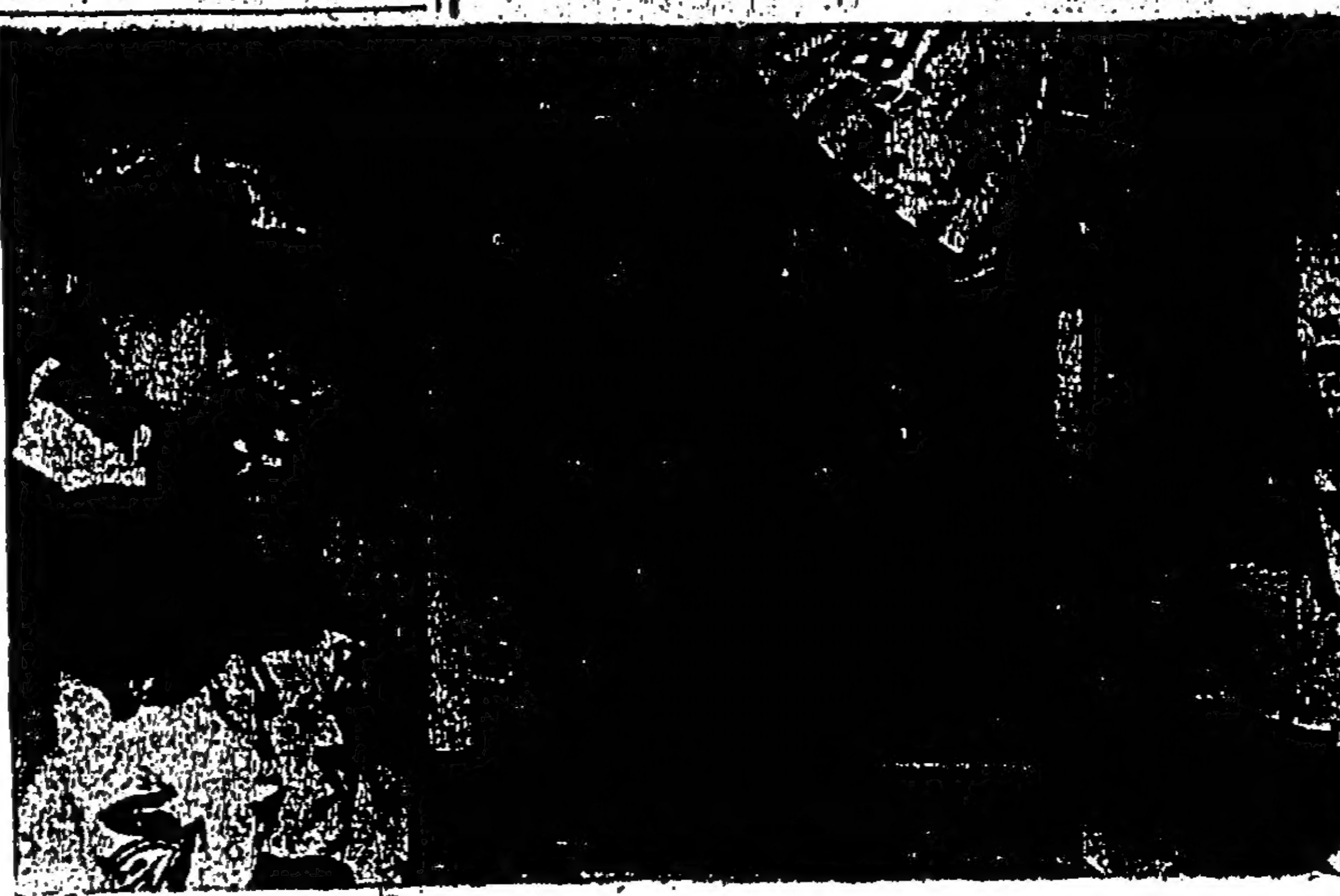
The New Statesman and Nation commented: "In other words, the new Japanese Cabinet, reflecting public opinion, finds it common sense as well as good business to respond favourably to the Soviet advances of the past few months."

BIG BUSINESS

The New Statesman and Nation added: "But can any Japanese Government achieve a more normal economy as long as her industrial life is dictated from Washington and prejudiced by militarisation?"

"No wonder Mr Shigemitsu has already suggested a review of the annual security aid with the United States on a really reciprocal basis."

"Even though the new Government, led by Mr Hata, reflects the will of big business rather than that of the people, economic pressure in Japan will probably make for the early removal of restrictions on trade with China and the Soviet Union."—China Mail Special.



During the "Water Imp" ceremony which is held each year at the Sogeri Temple in Matsuba-Cho, Japan, two young children pit their strength against each other—while balancing a tray of water on their heads. The ceremony is held to honour the "Water Imp" who, according to legend, helped the village to avert a flood 130 years ago.—Express Photo.

World Peace If Human Nature Changes STRAIGHTEN THE LINE IN ASIA, SAYS SPENDER

New York, Dec. 16. Evangelist Billy Graham said today that world peace could be attained only if human nature were changed radically.

"The problem of the world is not the hydrogen bomb or even Communism," said Mr Graham. "The problem is depraved human nature."

"I believe it is more patriotic to receive Christ and put his



BILLY GRAHAM

teachings into practice in our daily life than to shoulder a gun in the armed forces," Mr Graham told the Salvation Army As occasion of New York after receiving its seventh annual citation. "Many of you want to save America but you're not willing to pay the personal price."

Mr Graham was honoured for "his boundless spirit, unflinching faith and absolute dedication to Christ (which) has led untold thousands into a new and deeper understanding of God."

Mr Graham said: "There is no difference in the nature of a savage walking a jungle trail with a spear in his hand and an educated, cultured American flying a bomber overhead. Until changed, there is no real basis for world peace and the solution of our problems."—United Press.

DARTS ALLOWED IN BARS

Krugersdorp, Transvaal, Dec. 17. Dart players have won a year-long battle when the Liquor Licensing Board decided to rescind a decision taken last year to ban darts in bars.

The ban raised protests from players in the town and was reported widely in South Africa and overseas.—China Mail Special.

Washington, Dec. 16. Sir Percy Spender, Australian Ambassador, today called on the United States and her Allies in the Southeast Asia defence treaty to "straighten the line" in Asia.

Sir Percy, speaking at a monthly luncheon of the American Ordnance Association in the National Press Club, said: "It is a matter of tremendous urgency for the Western powers and their Asian Allies to get the line straight in Asia in terms of policy and objectives."

"Unless we get that line straight it is not going to be easy to hold any line in Asia."

Sir Percy told the members of the Association, which includes high ranking officers of the United States armed services, industry and Government interested in scientific development of modern military equipment that the policy of the Soviet Union had not changed "one hair's breadth" in recent months.

He said the different tone the Soviet Union was using in world affairs simply meant that the Communist leaders were trying a different means to achieve their ends. This was a Hitler type technique which must not lull the non-Communist world into a false sense of security.

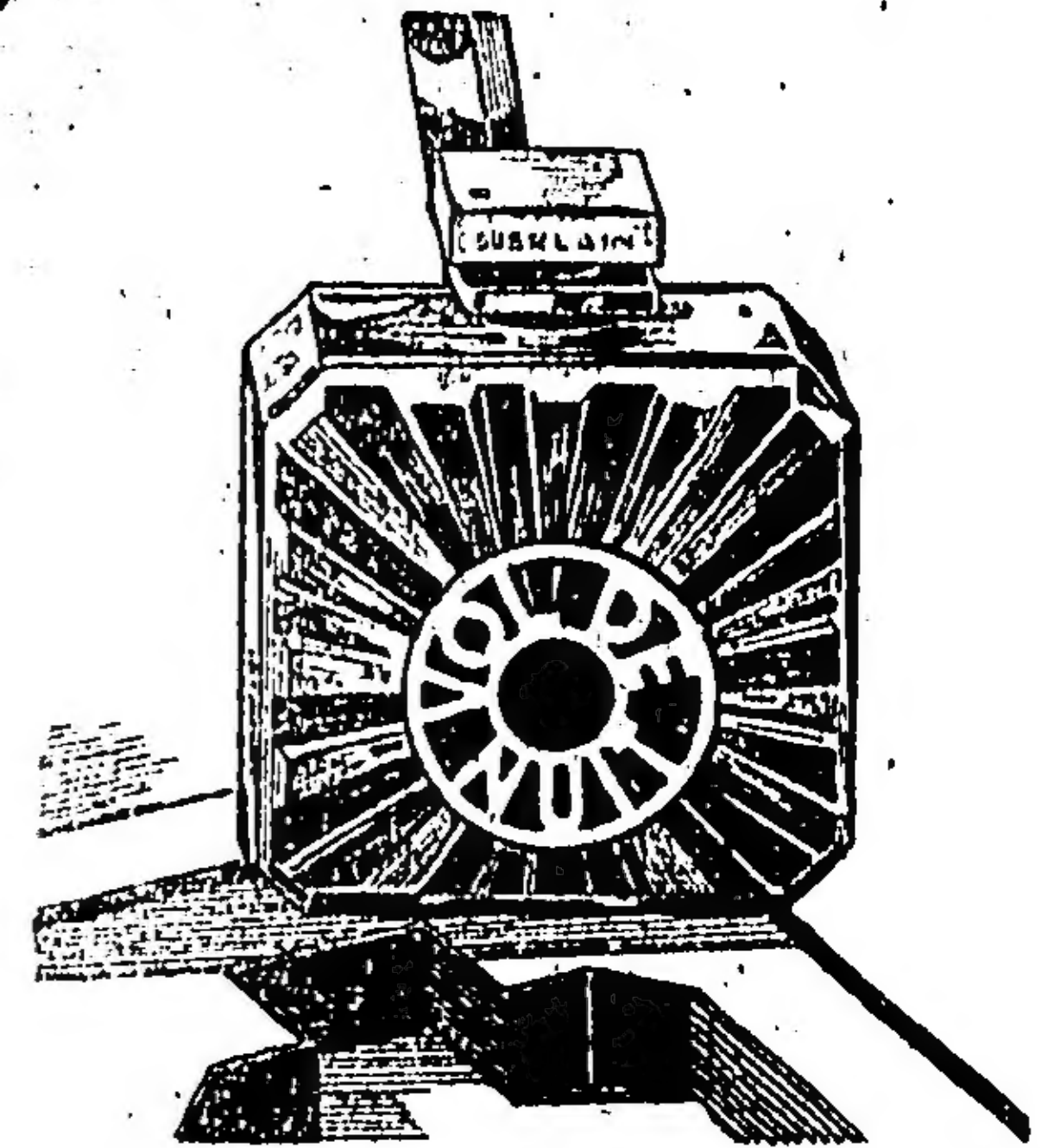
Engagement Ring For Dead Girl

Singapore, Dec. 16. A sad young man slipped an engagement ring on the finger of a pretty girl—who lay dead in the General Hospital here last weekend.

Tan Eng-soon (son of Singapore millionaire Tan Lark-ye, rubber magnate and President of Nanyang University Council), met and fell in love with a 17-year-old girl student, Ang Siew-lay. They planned their engagement to be a surprise to their families, and were making arrangements to announce it when the girl complained of a choking feeling in her throat. She lay in a hospital for four days, with Eng-soon keeping a day and night vigil by her bed. Then she died.

Eng-soon slipped a diamond ring on her finger. The engagement ring she never wore in life went with her to the grave.—France-Press.

Guerlain



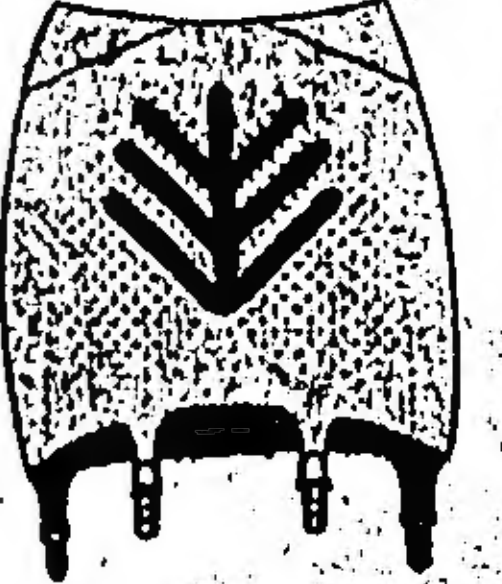
Vol de Nuit

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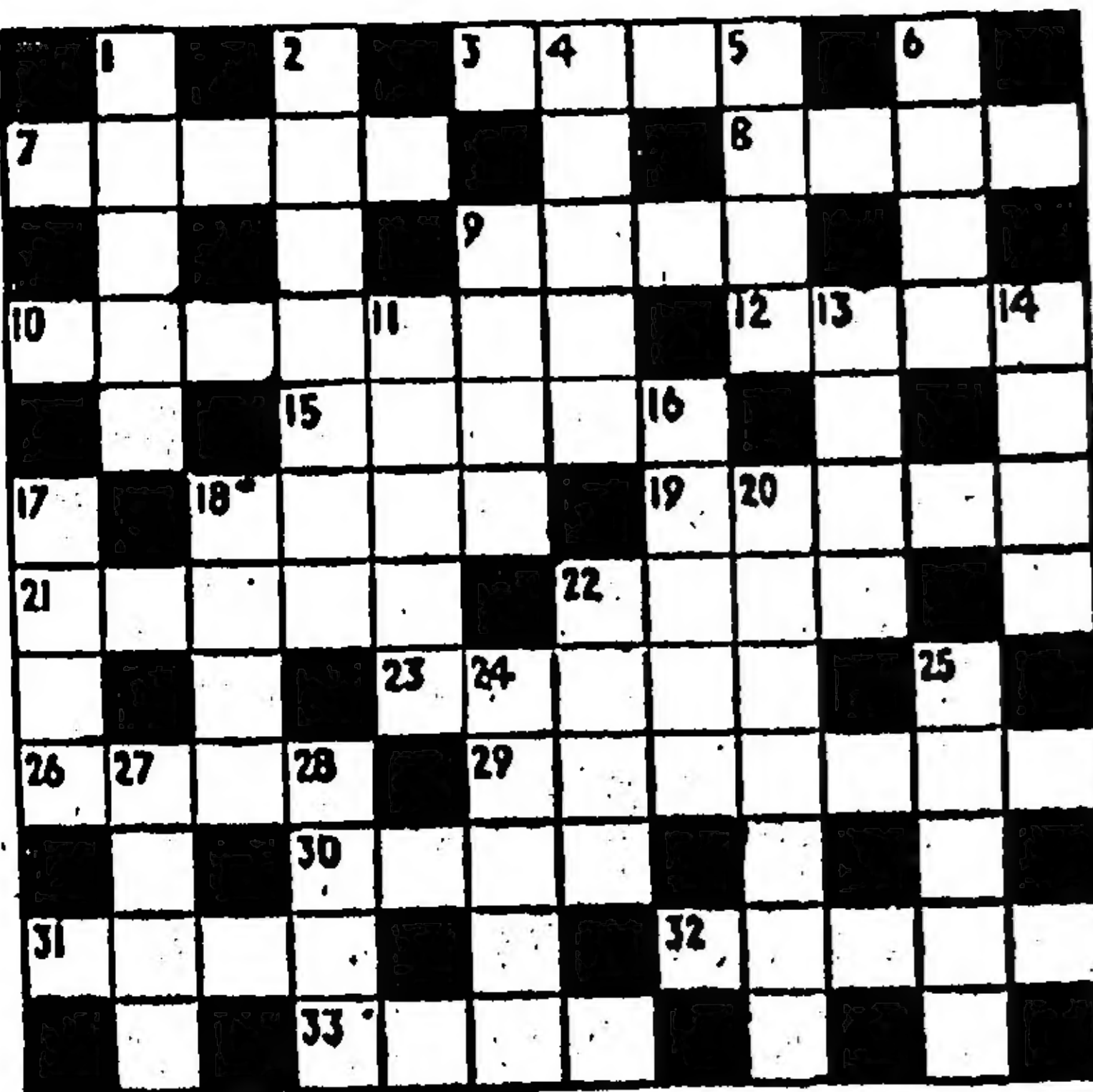
Here is a special Christmas programme

- N 00616 R Christmas Carols II (A selection of famous songs in German and Dutch). Sung by the Royal Male Choir "Maestrecht Staar".
- B 07616 R "Sammy Kaye Christmas Serenade" Sammy Kaye and his orchestra; The Kaye Choir and The Kayedots. A record with serenade and light Christmas Carols. Good as background-music after the ceremonies and especially useful as evening music.
- B 07624 R "Christmas with Jimmy Boyd" Jimmy Boyd with Orchestra and Chorus under the direction of Jimmy Carroll.
- B 07671 R "A Merry Christmas" with Rosemary Clooney, Arthur Godfrey, The Mariners, Lu Ann Simms, Sammy Kaye and Jimmy Boyd.

PHILIPS records

PHILIPS

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Blackleg (4).
- 7 Refuge (8).
- 8 Way out (4).
- 9 Ireland (4).
- 10 Caution (7).
- 12 Hue (4).
- 15 Marsh plants (5).
- 18 Cooker (4).
- 19 Perfect (8).
- 21 Drying cloth (5).
- 22 Operatic song (4).
- 23 Sled (8).
- 26 Attitude (4).
- 29 Renovated (7).
- 31 Tear (4).
- 32 Purloined (8).
- 33 Cuck off (4).

DOWN

- 1 Antic (5).
- 2 Merit (7).
- 4 Healed (5).
- 5 Inclination (4).
- 6 Symbol (4).
- 9 Uniform (4).
- 11 Dances (5).
- 13 Notion (4).
- 14 Cultivate (4).
- 16 Enchantress (5).
- 17 Cease (4).
- 18 Possessor (4).
- 20 Guide (7).
- 23 Encourage (4).
- 24 Speak (8).
- 25 Distributed (8).
- 27 Portent (4).
- 28 Objects (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Patent, 7. Reef, 9. Prior, 10. Aware, 11. Coll, 13. Restricted, 15. Left, 16. Spin, 19. Meditation, 22. Shown, 24. Agent, 25. Noise, 26. Glen, 27. Replete, Down: 2. Amis, 3. Error, 4. Traics, 5. Braclet, 6. Feet, 8. Erode, 12. Than, 13. Rinks, 14. Tenement, 17. Image, 19. Winter, 20. Annual, 21. Joke, 23. Hale.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer



JACOBY ON BRIDGE

This Expert's Bid Is Worth Studying

By OSWALD JACOBY

ONE of the best bridge books that I have seen for many years has just been put out by Ernest Rovere, of San Francisco. "Point, Count, Contract Bridge," as Rovere calls his big 600-odd page book, does a fine job on bidding and also teaches the play of the cards as the reader goes along. Today's hand, for example, is taken from the book.

The bidding is aggressive, but standard, with the exception of the response to four no-trump. When the Blackwood Convention is used, South must make the response of five diamonds to show one ace.

In this case, however, South is using the San Francisco Convention, in which aces and kings are shown in one response. The response of five hearts shows that South has one ace and one king.

If you like the idea of such a convention, be sure to discuss it with your partner before you use it. The best way to meet disaster in the bidding is to use a convention that your partner knows nothing about and doesn't expect. The San Francisco slam convention is

NORTH (D) 28	
AK 8764	
KJ 95	
None	
A 88	
WEST	
Q 2	
Q 102	
KQJ 98	
Q 3	
EAST	
J 1093	
Q 102	
KQJ 98	
Q 3	
SOUTH	
5	
A 8764	
10 5432	
K J	
Neither side vulnerable	
North	East
1 Pass	2 Pass
4 Pass	4 Pass
6 N.T.	5 Pass
4 N.T.	5 Pass
6 N.T.	5 Pass
Opening lead—♦ K	

very good, but it takes a few minutes of study by both partners.

The play of the hand is careful and instructive. West leads the king of diamonds, and dummy ruffs. "South realizes," says Rovere, "that he cannot possibly trump all of his losing diamonds in the dummy. Accordingly, he must set up dummy's spade suit to provide diamond discards, and the trump suit provides the needed entries for the establishment of the spade suit."

As Rovere indicates, dummy wins the first trick by ruffing a diamond. The ace of spades is cashed, and South ruffs a spade. Declarer takes the ace and king of hearts (the shuffling and ruffing of the ace of hearts happens to be inside) and leads the king of spades. West cleverly refuses to ruff, hoping that South will be careless enough to use dummy's last trump by ruffing a diamond.

Declarer ruffs another spade and avoids trouble by leading a club to dummy's ace. It is then safe to lead a spade from the dummy and let West take his queen of hearts whenever he wants it. There is no way for the defenders to take any other trick, and South therefore makes his slam contract.

CARD SENSE

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been:
North: 1 Spade, 2 Clubs, 3 Pass, 4 Pass.
South: 2 Spades, 3 Pass, 4 Pass, 5 Pass, 6 Pass, 7 Pass, 8 Pass, 9 Pass, 10 Pass, 11 Pass, 12 Pass, 13 Pass, 14 Pass, 15 Pass, 16 Pass, 17 Pass, 18 Pass, 19 Pass, 20 Pass, 21 Pass, 22 Pass, 23 Pass, 24 Pass, 25 Pass, 26 Pass, 27 Pass, 28 Pass, 29 Pass, 30 Pass, 31 Pass, 32 Pass, 33 Pass, 34 Pass, 35 Pass, 36 Pass, 37 Pass, 38 Pass, 39 Pass, 40 Pass, 41 Pass, 42 Pass, 43 Pass, 44 Pass, 45 Pass, 46 Pass, 47 Pass, 48 Pass, 49 Pass, 50 Pass, 51 Pass, 52 Pass, 53 Pass, 54 Pass, 55 Pass, 56 Pass, 57 Pass, 58 Pass, 59 Pass, 60 Pass, 61 Pass, 62 Pass, 63 Pass, 64 Pass, 65 Pass, 66 Pass, 67 Pass, 68 Pass, 69 Pass, 70 Pass, 71 Pass, 72 Pass, 73 Pass, 74 Pass, 75 Pass, 76 Pass, 77 Pass, 78 Pass, 79 Pass, 80 Pass, 81 Pass, 82 Pass, 83 Pass, 84 Pass, 85 Pass, 86 Pass, 87 Pass, 88 Pass, 89 Pass, 90 Pass, 91 Pass, 92 Pass, 93 Pass, 94 Pass, 95 Pass, 96 Pass, 97 Pass, 98 Pass, 99 Pass, 100 Pass, 101 Pass, 102 Pass, 103 Pass, 104 Pass, 105 Pass, 106 Pass, 107 Pass, 108 Pass, 109 Pass, 110 Pass, 111 Pass, 112 Pass, 113 Pass, 114 Pass, 115 Pass, 116 Pass, 117 Pass, 118 Pass, 119 Pass, 120 Pass, 121 Pass, 122 Pass, 123 Pass, 124 Pass, 125 Pass, 126 Pass, 127 Pass, 128 Pass, 129 Pass, 130 Pass, 131 Pass, 132 Pass, 133 Pass, 134 Pass, 135 Pass, 136 Pass, 137 Pass, 138 Pass, 139 Pass, 140 Pass, 141 Pass, 142 Pass, 143 Pass, 144 Pass, 145 Pass, 146 Pass, 147 Pass, 148 Pass, 149 Pass, 150 Pass, 151 Pass, 152 Pass, 153 Pass, 154 Pass, 155 Pass, 156 Pass, 157 Pass, 158 Pass, 159 Pass, 160 Pass, 161 Pass, 162 Pass, 163 Pass, 164 Pass, 165 Pass, 166 Pass, 167 Pass, 168 Pass, 169 Pass, 170 Pass, 171 Pass, 172 Pass, 173 Pass, 174 Pass, 175 Pass, 176 Pass, 177 Pass, 178 Pass, 179 Pass, 180 Pass, 181 Pass, 182 Pass, 183 Pass, 184 Pass, 185 Pass, 186 Pass, 187 Pass, 188 Pass, 189 Pass, 190 Pass, 191 Pass, 192 Pass, 193 Pass, 194 Pass, 195 Pass, 196 Pass, 197 Pass, 198 Pass, 199 Pass, 200 Pass, 201 Pass, 202 Pass, 203 Pass, 204 Pass, 205 Pass, 206 Pass, 207 Pass, 208 Pass, 209 Pass, 210 Pass, 211 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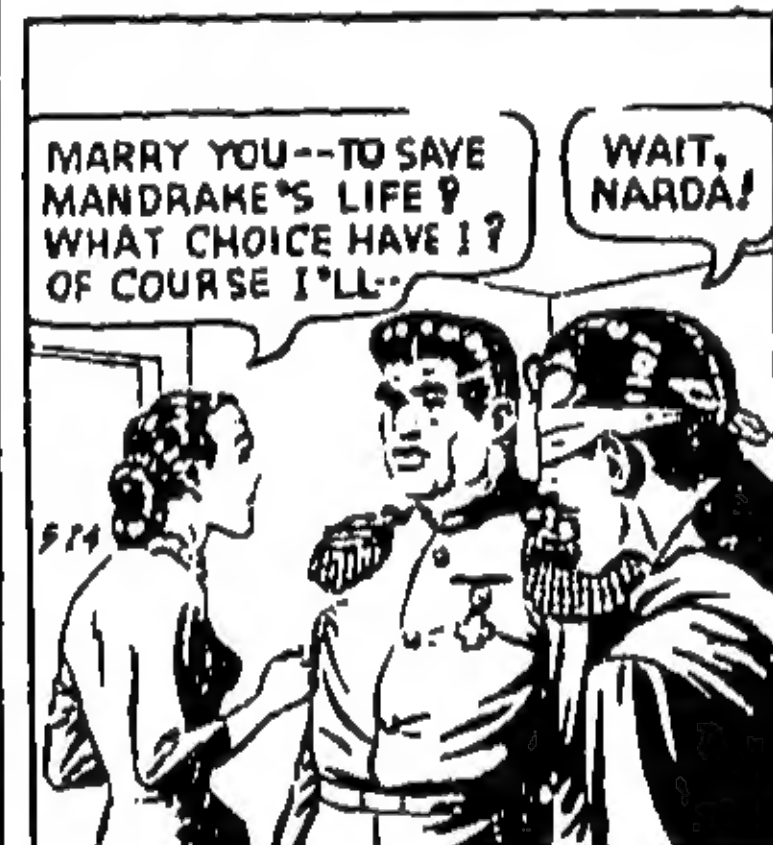
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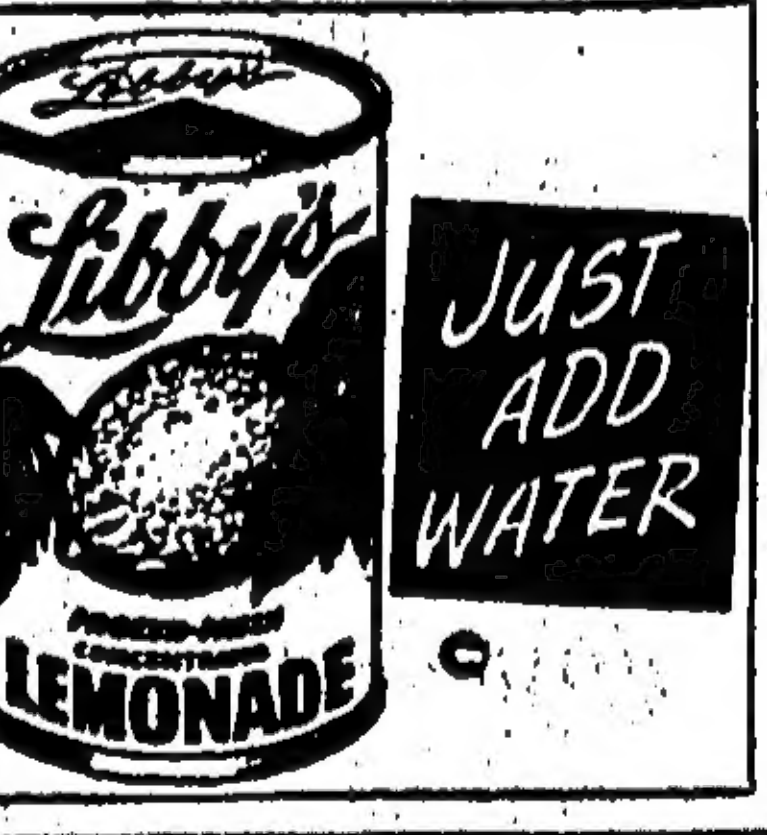
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MORPAT WHIPPING for all party occasions. It is an excellent Whipping Cream at a most reasonable price. 11 or 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Also Morpat 30 a fine table cream. 11 or 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Obtainable at all grocers.

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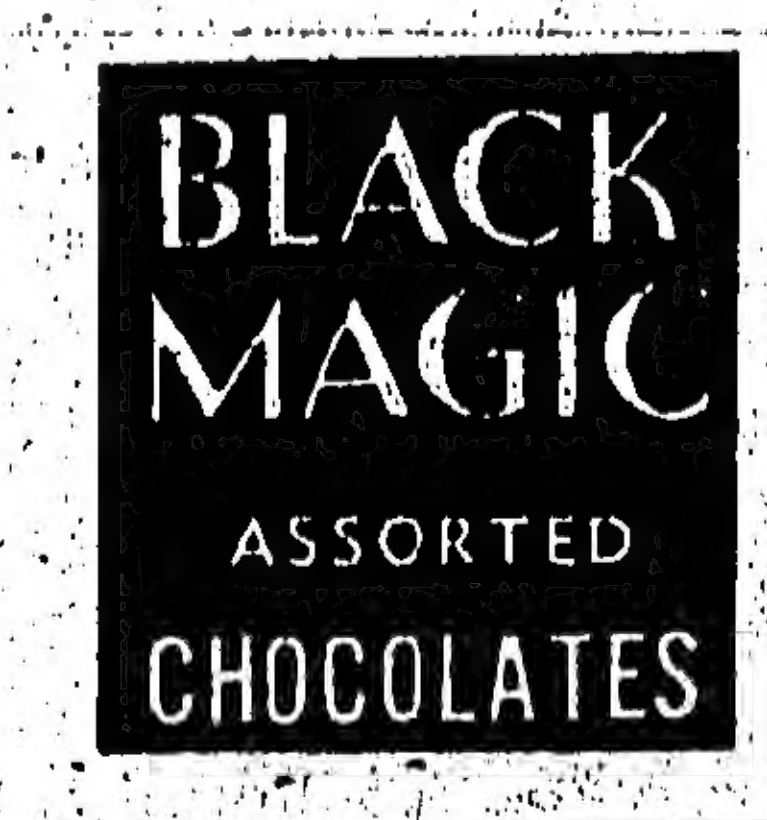
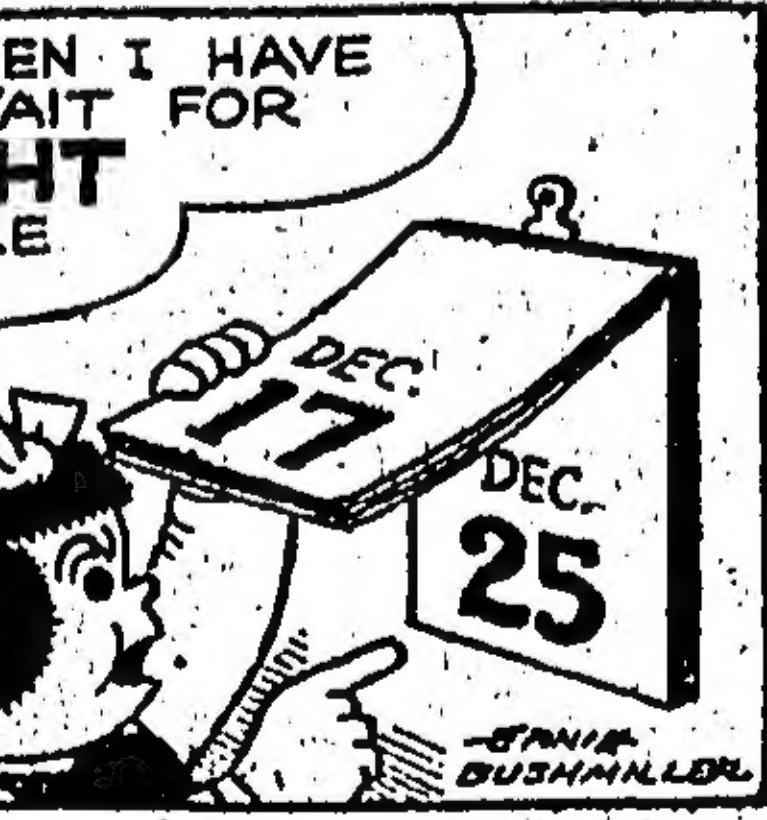
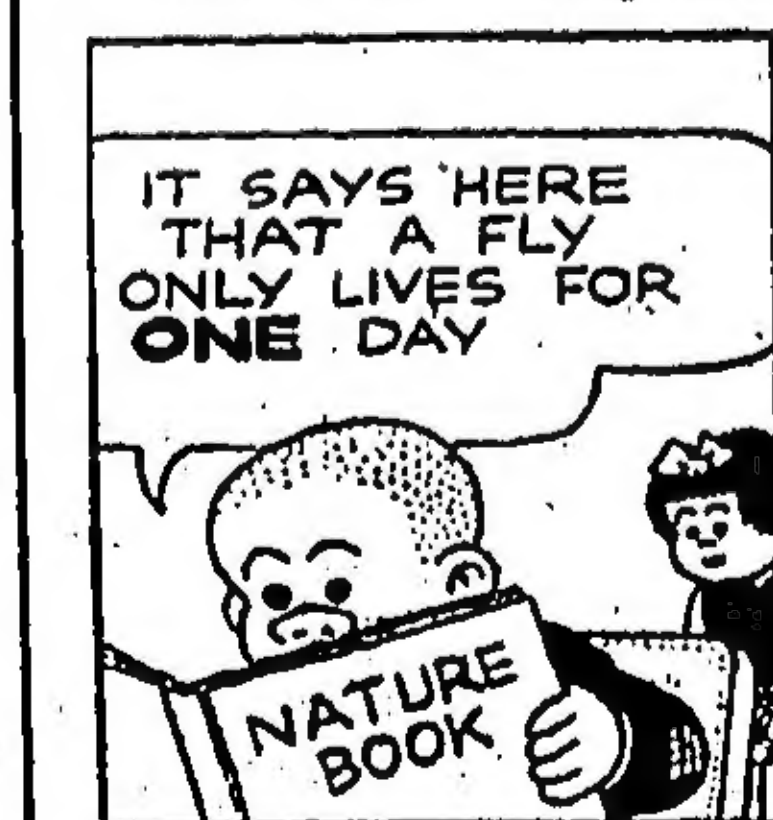


FERD'NAND



NANCY

Impatient?



JOHNNY HAZARD



Man, Mistress Murder Lodger

Tarbes, S.E. France, Dec. 16. K. Fouraste and his mistress, Marie Lapiere, were sentenced to hard labour for life here today for the murder of Jean Larran, their 78-year-old lodger.

Later, after the chief witness, Bizzichini, died, the couple withdrew their confessions, accused the Italian of the crime and later admitted only to having participated in the dissection and attempted disposal of the corpse.

The court today found them both guilty, and only a verdict of unpremeditated crime saved the couple from the guillotine.

The court was unable to establish whether the couple poisoned or suffocated Larran. But the fact that after the murder the victim was chopped up and boiled on the kitchen stove was not disputed.

The case opened in February, 1953, when an Italian, Angelo Bizzichini, told local police that he had found a cataton full of human remains boiling over on the kitchen stove in Marie's home. —France-Press.

Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, Dec. 17.

With three shots from a revolver which her grandmother gave her as a wedding present, Mrs. W. Sanders, 34, killed a 7ft. cobra at a filling station near Salisbury.

The snake had been taking eggs from the Sanders' hen run for about two months. —Reuter.

Police Charged With Attack On Baronet

Nyeri, Kenya, Dec. 16. Two European officers of the Kenya Police, Chief Inspector Richard Crunby Kerry, and Inspector Harvey Lewis, will appear in court here again on December 22 charged with assault, causing actual bodily harm to Sir Henry Dalrymple-White.

A report on the charge against the two men yesterday, incorrectly named the Chief Inspector as Richard Causby Kelly.

The two officers were remanded in custody. Sir Henry Dalrymple-White, a District Officer in charge of the Kikuyu Home Guards, is in Mount Kenya hospital here recovering from injuries received on Monday. —China Mail Special.

Earl Ferrers Leaves £105,000

Ashby De La Zouch, Leicestershire, Dec. 16. Earl Ferrers, head of one of England's oldest families, who died in sorrow over the sale of his ancestral home, left £105,289 under his will published today.

The 60-roomed mansion, Staunton Harold Hall near here was sold for £12,000 to an unnamed buyer on October 11.

A few hours before the 60-year-old Earl died, he had declared: "I have tried desperately hard to preserve Staunton Harold but I have been defeated by mounting taxation."

The Hall stood on a site of what had been the family seat since 1423. The family was founded in Derbyshire in the 9th century. The Earl left numerous heirlooms to his wife. —China Mail Special.

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A CITY MAY BE BUILT IN THE ANTARCTIC

Melbourne, Dec. 16.

About the middle of this month, while Australia is preparing for its summer Christmas, a tiny ship will leave Melbourne headed for the Antarctic.

The ship, the Danish motor vessel, Kista Dan, will carry supplies and a relief expedition to man for 12 months the British Commonwealth's southern-most outpost, at Mawson, on the Antarctic mainland.

For 12 months, the little band of technicians and meteorologists and radiomen will live in insulated huts in temperatures which drop to 70 degrees Fahrenheit below zero—more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit of frost.

Aboard the ship will be Mr. Phillip Law, Director of the Antarctic Division of the Department of External Affairs, the man who has pushed ahead Australia's postwar exploration of her huge Antarctic territories.

HARD HEADED

Small, wiry and bearded, Mr. Law is more than a hard headed public servant. Part explorer, part organizer, he is also a visionary who looks to the day when a large scale permanent settlement in the shape of an underground city where Australians can live insulated from the Antarctic climate, will come into being.

His city, he believes, could be built hundreds of feet under the bare rock which forms the Antarctic mainland.

But the vision of a synthetic city buried beneath the wind-torn rock and ice of the continent is not for the batch of hardy Australians who will exile themselves for a year on a piece of territory as can be found in any part of the world.

For them, "home" will be a small wooden hut anchored to the rock but swaying to the stronger than 100 m.p.h. gusts of wind shrieking through the incredibly cold winter and confining the men to their buildings for long weeks.

On good summer's day, the temperatures will not rise above about 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

Australia's Antarctic and sub-Antarctic settlements are well-established now. The data collected there is being sifted continuously and gradually a picture of how conditions there affect weather in Australia itself is being built up.

An earlier settlement on Heard Island is to be abandoned early in 1955 and research concentrated at Mawson, where the first party was landed from the same ship, Kista Dan, nearly a year ago.

TRANSFER TO MAWSON

Mr. Law, commenting on the swiftness, said: "We got as much out of Heard Island as we want for the present." He said that most of the equipment there would be transferred to Mawson.

To him, the Antarctic is not the barren bleak waste it would appear to the layman.

It is an undeveloped territory, the least explored of continents, beneath which it seems certain that there lies great mineral wealth.

Mr. Law believes that only one motive, economic gain, can set in progress the real settlement and development of Antarctica. Once this reason has been established, he believes that settlement of the continent will proceed apace. When that will be, he is not prepared to say. It could be this year or in 10 years or 50 years—Perhaps not until 2054.

Then the need will come for an Australian city, a city with shops, swimming pools, houses and schools, all buried safely under the snow and ice.

It would be a city where the temperature varied only enough to give a pleasing sense of change, where ultra violet light would promote a year-round "sun" tan—a city dry, windless, bright and lacking only the stench of petrol exhausts and other disadvantages of above-ground living to remain its inhabitants where they were.

There would be no coughs or colds. The atmosphere would be drawn from surface air where no germs could live.

FIRM BELIEF

All that, however, is a vision for the future, and even Mr. Law admits that it might be the distant future. But his belief in the future of Antarctica knows few bounds.

Beneath its surface, he believes, there MUST be mineral wealth unless the law of averages is wrong. To the men rolling towards the South Pole in the perpetual bad weather of these regions, the vision will not cause the cramped discomfort of their "stretch" at Mawson.

The information which they collect on prevailing winds, temperatures, and Australia's growing information about her southern-most possessions.

Slowly, she is becoming on more and more intimate terms with this most forbidding territory.

The men of the Antarctic Division believe that eventually their accumulating store of knowledge will pay off in terms of great benefit to their country. —China Mail Special.

PRISON FOR TEA TRADERS

Frankfurt, Dec. 17.

Katharina Lohb, aged 57, sent to prison here for 17 months for trading, tax-free tea, intended only for United States service men, was known as "the Empress of China." It was stated in court.

Her son, Erich, 35-year-old shopman, was given 18 months imprisonment and four other members of the gang received lesser sentences. They were said to have rubbed the tea, worth thousands of marks (100,000 Deutschmarks), into the

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XMAS OVER THE WORLD

Today one of our special writers takes you on a Christmas tour of Mediterranean countries.

ITALY

A sombre note will be struck in the Christmas rejoicings of millions of Italian families this year owing to anxiety for the health of the ailing and aged Pope Pius XII.

The continuing ill-health is casting a shadow over the traditional Christmas celebrations, with the homely pleasure of gift-giving and rich food.

In the Vatican City, the countess Basilica and tiny villages, the Christmas Eve special prayers are being said for the 78-year-old Pontiff's return to health.

For the past 15 years, the Pope has broadcast a message to the world's 400,000,000 Catholics from the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican. This year, however, the Pope may not be able to broadcast his message. It may be that the Pope will not be able to broadcast his message.

During the late evening of Christmas Eve, the population of towns and villages will flock to the Basilica, and the country churches there to watch the procession to the crib which depicts the scene in the stable of Bethlehem and to hear the Christmas Mass. Before leaving the church, most will pause in front of the crib to say a prayer to Him whose birth they have just commemorated. The prayer is in which the Pope is sure to be remembered.

For children, in Italy as in many other countries, Christmas is a time for parties. For one week before Christmas, and other collections, working for charitable organizations, have been collecting in streets and restaurants to raise money for Christmas parties for orphans and the very poor.

The great day for Italian children, however, is the Feast of Epiphany, on January 6, when a kind witch named Befana glides down on her broomstick with a load of presents, just as Santa Claus visits the children of Britain and many other countries on Christmas Eve.

GREECE

Although Christmas is not one of the major holidays for the Greeks, the Nativity of Christ is celebrated throughout the country by the Greek Orthodox Church.

The main Christian celebrations here, however, take place on New Year's day, the Feast of St. Basilios.

Christmas trees, for example, are lit on Christmas night but on New Year's Eve. Presents and congratulations, banquets and family gatherings also take place on that day.

Christmas, in its Greek significance "Christougenia", does not mean specifically the single day of December 25. The plural form indicates that it includes a series of holidays starting on December 25 and lasting until January 6. During these 12 days, Greeks celebrate not merely Christmas day but also New Year's day, the Epiphany and many Saints' days as well.

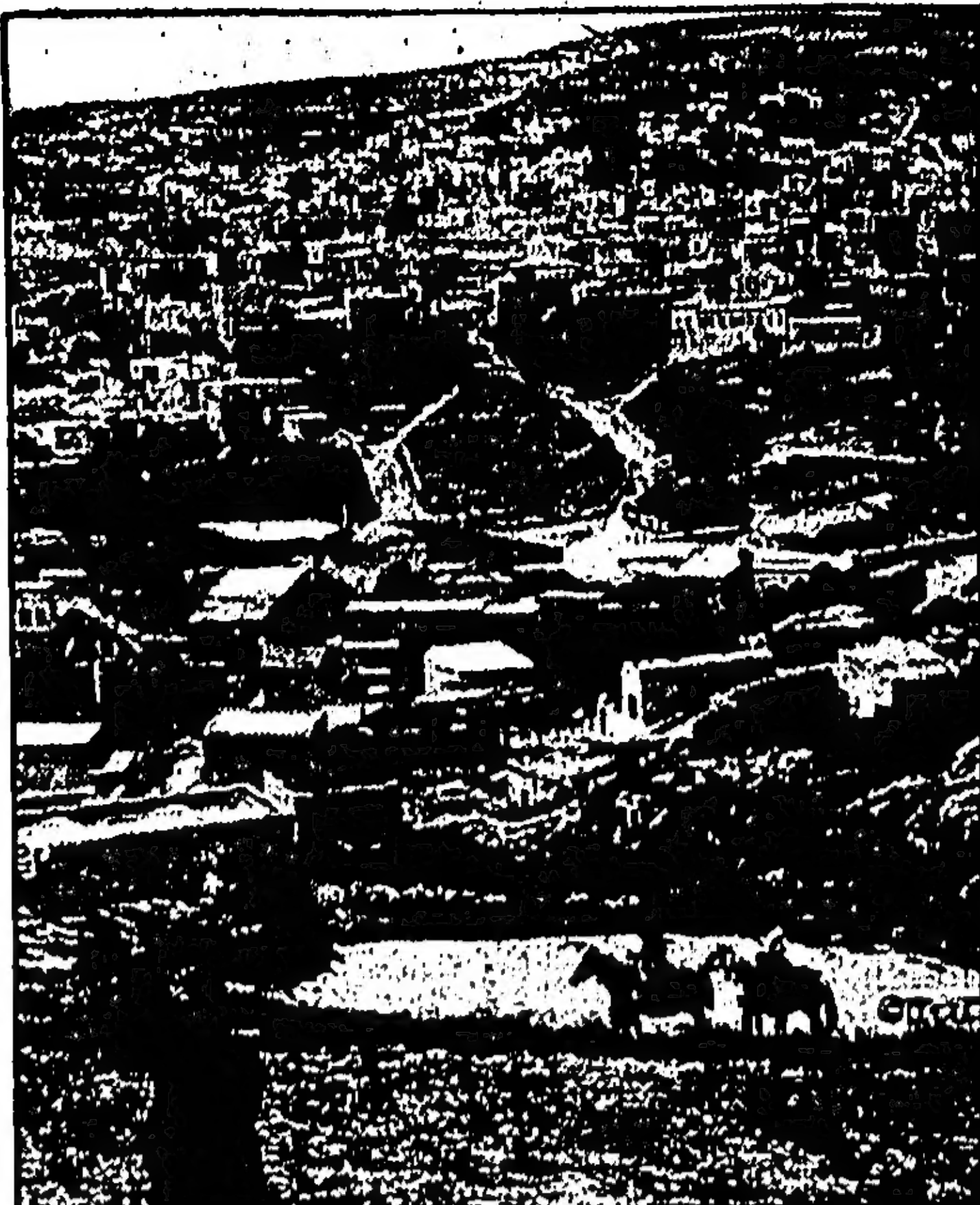
In Greek villages, many old pagan customs continue to be observed at Christmas. Many villagers, for instance, consider that any child born on Christmas day is an "anti-Christ" because it has been bold enough to enter the world on the Holy Day reserved for the Saviour's own birth.

On Christmas day, Greek peasants slaughter their fattest pigs. The carcass is then salted and stored in large terracotta jars to become the rulo dish not only for the ensuing festivities but also to provide the family with meat during the winter.

The blood of the slaughtered pigs will be used to rub the horns of the cattle of the farm. This "anointing" on the very day of Christ's Nativity, is said to preserve cows, calves and even goats from "the evil eye" and illness.

After a short attendance at the church service, housewives will be busy at home baking the ritual "Vasilopita". The King Cake, which will be out at the family gathering on New Year's Eve. This cake contains a coin which is said to bring luck to the coming year to the one who finds it.

With a feeling of increased security predominating along Greece's northern borders and the fears of armed conflicts, in



NAZARETH, CHRIST'S BOYHOOD HOME, retains almost its original appearance, as very few modern buildings have been added. Here in a basin in the hills bordering the south of the Plain of Esdraelon dwell 10,000 persons, in a spot rich in tradition of both the Old and New Testaments.

vision and destruction which have been their lot for two decades fading, the peasants, are now more confident of the future and feel that they can spend a part of their tiny savings on Christmas celebrations.

CYPRUS

As in many other countries Christmas is celebrated in Cyprus partly as a religious festival and partly as a time of fun and feasting, while in addition the island has its own special practices and superstitions associated with the occasion.

Christmas is ushered in on Cyprus with the pageantry of the Greek Orthodox Midnight Mass, celebrated in candle-lit churches throughout the island. This long, impressive church service is attended by young and old alike, for no member of the family misses Mass on this great annual feast.

An old superstition associated with Christmas in Cyprus, and still respected by many Cypriot villagers, is that boys, locally known as "kallikantsari", are allowed by God to visit the earth for 12 days at Yuletide. Elderly ladies tell to their children and grandchildren tales of these bogymen, painting vivid verbal pictures of the hideous, frightening forms which these characters may take—and producing in their listeners much the same effect as that of ghost stories.

After such a story-telling session, women and children whose imaginations have been too well stimulated, are scared to enter a dark room for fear of meeting a "kallikantsari". Most of the revelries of the Christmas season are, however, reserved until New Year's Eve. On this night, too, Cypriot children hang up their stockings.

Father Christmas also puts in an appearance on December 31. But in Cyprus, he differs greatly from the kindly benefactor they are in other countries. For Cypriot Father Christmas does not give presents. They ask for them.

They are all poor men who beg for money while singing a special Christmas carol, "Father Christmas is Coming", with never ending repetition to the accompaniment of a musical instrument—usually an out-of-tune violin.

Some Father Christmases even dress up in the traditional white trimmed red cloak and hood. Most, however, are identified merely by the song they sing, and the receipt for coins which they so prominently display.

On New Year's Day, family parties are the rule and the highlight of the occasion is the cutting of the Christmas cake, made from a rich creamy mixture in which a copper coin is hidden. The cake is cut by the male head of the household into as many pieces as there are persons in the house, and then distributed.

The one who is fortunate enough to get the portion containing the coin can look forward to luck and happiness throughout the year.

Speaking on New Year's Day is also considered a good omen, though snuff-produced meeses do not count.

SPAIN

Christmas trees, Christmas cards and Christmas presents, customs brought here from other countries, are becoming more and more a predominant feature of Christmas in Spain.

The old Spanish Christmas custom which still continues in full vigour is the Christmas lottery.

more hope of this than ever this year.

The first prize of the Christmas lottery has been increased from 80,000,000 pesetas (£800,000) to 105,000,000 (£1,050,000) this year and seven series are being printed instead of six to meet the tremendous demand for tickets.

But to win the 105,000,000 pesetas, you must buy all seven series of the winning number at 2,000 pesetas (£20) each. That means that you must spend 14,000 pesetas (£140) in order to be even in a position to hit the jackpot.

The toy shops here today reflect the growing mechanical interests of Spanish children. "Space man" outfits draw small response, but electric trains and all kinds of aeroplanes are highly popular.

Spain's improved economic position is shown by the fact that Madrid's largest department store is featuring a whole section of imported, latest-style German toys.

"Christmas is not what it used to be," grumbles the older Spaniards as they gaze at the Christmas trees and cards and the holly and mistletoe, and listen to the radio playing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

But the younger generation seems to enjoy it.

PORTUGAL

Enthusiastic preparations are being made in this intensely Catholic country for the celebration of Christmas in traditional manner.

Most Portuguese will flock to midnight Mass, celebrated in all churches throughout the land on Christmas Eve. Those unable to go to church will listen to the Mass to be broadcast by the Portuguese national radio network.

After Mass comes the "revellion", or supper, consisting of chicken broth or boiled salt cod fish with potatoes and red wine of varying quality according to the size of the household's purse.

Ordinary red wine here, for example, costs 2.50 escudos (about 7½d) a litre (nearly 1 quart), while good quality bottled wine may be anywhere from 12 escudos (3/-) to 25 escudos (6/3d) a litre bottle.

As usual there is great enthusiasm for the national lottery which, as last year, will give a top prize of 10,000,000 escudos (£125,000) in return for an outlay of 2,000 escudos (£25).

Almost every one in Portugal pins his hopes on this lottery, which is run for charity purposes. Those who cannot afford a 20-escudo (about 5/-) share—the smallest that can be bought in a ticket—are joining to buy one.

Shops are displaying beautiful clothes which are the most popular presents for growing ups and a variety of toys for the children. There is not much novelty as far as presents for adults are concerned, but children this year have something new in the shape of a flying saucer made of plastic.

This is the most popular toy of the season and has replaced, motorcars, tanks, aircraft and ships as the children's first choice.

World Cotton Markets

New York, Dec. 16. Cotton prices today regained a foot hold after a shaky start. Initial losses up to 50 cents a bale were converted into small net gains at the close.

Closing around the day's top levels, the list was up 2 to 8 points, opening prices were off 7 to 10 points. New Orleans closed off 1 to 8 points.

Buying credited to textile mills, exporters and commission houses reversed the trend when an overnight accumulation of hedge selling, originating largely from California points, had been digested.

SMALL SCALE Liverpool brokers were small scale sellers of the December, May and July deliveries in the early forenoon.

Smaller cables under the Government loan programme for the week ended Dec. 10, along with the disappointingly slow development of new buying in the textile markets, were contributing factors.

As March neared the 3½-cent line, urgent selling abated and prices worked irregularly higher on the trade demand. Dealers reported a sizable amount of selling in early months, mainly purchases of the far forward positions by commission houses.

Reasoning behind that operation, the experts said, was that with production-marketing contracts to take effect next year and with the virtual assurance of continued 90 per cent of parity price supports the deferred months are expected to be sensitive to any adverse crop development and any tightening in the supply situation.

NEW YORK Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	33.00
March	34.00-35
May	34.00-35
July	34.00
October	34.00
December	34.00
March	34.00
May	34.00

NEW ORLEANS Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	33.00
March	34.00-35
May	34.00-35
July	34.00-35
October	34.00
December	34.00
March	34.00
May	34.00

LIVERPOOL Closings, American middling 15/16 inch, in pence per lb. were as follows:

Dec./Jan.	32.01
Mar./Apr.	32.17
May/June	32.17
July/Aug.	32.17
Oct./Nov.	32.17
Dec./Jan.	32.17
Mar./Apr.	32.17
May/June	32.17
July/Aug.	32.17
Oct./Nov.	32.17
Dec./Jan.	32.17

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July/Aug.	32.17
Oct./Nov.	32.17
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Chicago Grain Prices

Chicago, Dec. 15. Prices per bushel in cents—Closing prices

Wheat, No. 2, red	22 1/2
Spot	22 1/2
Mar.	22 1/2
May	22 1/2
July	22 1/2
Sept.	22 1/2
Nov.	22 1/2
Jan.	22 1/2
Mar.	22 1/2
May	22 1/2
July	22 1/2
Sept.	22 1/2
Nov.	22 1/2
Jan.	22 1/2

Corn, No. 2, yellow

Spot	15 1/2
Mar.	15 1/2
May	15 1/2
July	15 1/2
Sept.	15 1/2
Nov.	15 1/2
Jan.	15 1/2
Mar.	15 1/2
May	15 1/2
July	15 1/2
Sept.	15 1/2
Nov.	15 1/2
Jan.	15 1/2

Soybeans, No. 2, yellow

Spot	28 1/2
Mar.	28 1/2
May	28 1/2
July	28 1/2
Sept.	28 1/2
Nov.	28 1/2
Jan.	28 1/2
Mar.	28 1/2
May	28 1/2
July	28 1/2
Sept.	28 1/2
Nov.	28 1/2
Jan.	28 1/2

Barley, No. 2, 150-155m

New York flour 80 lb. sack 84.00m

United Press.

Dow-Jones Closing Averages

New York, Dec. 16. Dow-Jones closing averages on Wall Street today were as follows:

20 Industrials	221.4
30 Industrials	221.4
40 Industrials	221.4
50 Industrials	221.4
60 Industrials	221.4
70 Industrials	221.4
80 Industrials	221.4
90 Industrials	221.4
100 Industrials	221.4
110 Industrials	221.4
120 Industrials	221.4
130 Industrials	221.4
140 Industrials	221.4
150 Industrials	221.4
160 Industrials	221.4
170 Industrials	221.4
180 Industrials	221.4
190 Industrials	221.4
200 Industrials	221.4

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NEW ORLEANS Prices of futures closed today as follows:

Spot	33.00
March	

CLARK CHAPMAN & CO., LTD.
STEAM & ELECTRIC MARINE WINCHES,
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PRESSURE STEAM BOILERS, ELECTRIC
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CHINA MAIL

Sheaffer's
"SNORKEL"

Page 10

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1954.

BIG 3 TALKS BEGIN IN PARIS

2½-HOUR DISCUSSIONS ON ATOMIC STRATEGY

Soviet Note Mentioned

Paris, Dec. 16.
The Big Three Foreign Ministers met here for 2½ hours tonight to discuss tomorrow's crucial Atlantic Council Conference on atomic strategy.

M. Pierre Mendes-France, the French Premier, Sir Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary, and Mr John Foster Dulles, the American Secretary of State, talked primarily about the Council's forthcoming business, an official said afterwards.

The Soviet note to France today threatening to annul the Franco-Soviet friendship pact if the Paris treaties rearming Western Germany were ratified was mentioned but not discussed, the official added.

Sir Anthony Eden had arrived from London a few hours earlier and talked at the British Embassy with Mr Dulles and Mr Lester Pearson, Canadian External Affairs Minister. At this earlier meeting, they were believed to have discussed whether the Atlantic Pact's European military command should base its defence planning on atomic weapons.

This is one of the major issues facing 40 Cabinet ministers of the 14 partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation at tomorrow's meeting.

ATOMIC AGREEMENT
The National Chiefs of Staff had unanimously agreed that only by using atomic weapons can the outnumbered NATO forces defend Western Europe against any Communist attack.

According to usually reliable sources Mr Dulles told the British and French Ministers at the meeting that President Eisenhower had advised Congress to give the same guarantees of American support to the new Western European Union as would have applied to the defunct European Army scheme.

The sources said Mr. Mendes-France raised the question of Anglo-American guarantees for the new Spar statute. Sir Anthony Eden and Mr Dulles were reported to have given the French Premier satisfaction on this point.

NOT FAVOURED
The French Premier said he did not favour a four-power meeting on the Saar question—

a full summary so that the ministers could consider it later. He said he thought the note would have little effect on the voting in the National Assembly's ratification debate on the Paris agreements next week.

Preliminary French diplomatic reaction to the Soviet note was that it was another propaganda manoeuvre.—Reuter.

Taxi Drivers Discharged By Magistrate

Case "A Waste Of Time"

Declaring that it was a sheer waste of time for the Police to bring defendants to Court in this particular case, Mr Thomas Tam, Magistrate at Central, this morning held that two taxi drivers had no case to answer and discharged them accordingly.

Mr Tam announced his decision as soon as Prosecution rested its case after a hearing that lasted almost two hours during which the three Crown witnesses were subjected to vigorous cross-examination by Mr F. W. Ke of Messrs Lau, Chan, and Ko, counsel for the two accused.

The two defendants, Lau Hing of 2 Hau Fung Lane, first floor, and Wan Kwok-fai of 66A Lockhart Road, third floor, were each alleged between 2.30 and 3.45 p.m. on October 9 this year at Wongneichung Road near the Jockey Club, to have displayed a signal given them by a Traffic Officer and failed to bring their empty taxis to a place of accommodation approved by the Commissioner of Police.

In dismissing the summonses, the Magistrate said that there was no evidence a clear signal had been given by the Traffic Officer and he was satisfied that the two defendants had acted in good faith.

The Police, remarked the Magistrate, were not to find fault with the public but to render them assistance.

He also expressed the hope that there might be closer co-operation between taxi owners and the Traffic Office in the handling of information regarding any change of normal traffic practices.

Appointments

Mr K. M. A. Barnett, ED, has been appointed District Commissioner, New Territories, by H. E. the Governor. It was announced in the Government Gazette today. He assumed his duties on December 16, vice Mr E. B. Teasdale.

Ava Shook Singapore In This Daring Chongsum



Ava Gardner gave Singapore a surprise when she appeared in this daring chongsum at a Press Conference. She bought it in Singapore, thinks it's the "sexiest dress" she's ever seen, and intends introducing it into Hollywood!

Year's Detention For Endangering Submarine Artemis

Portsmouth, Dec. 16.
A 19-year-old stoker mechanic was today sentenced to a year's detention for planting grenades in a British submarine because he was "fed up and miserable".

In a statement, the seaman John Lyon admitted he put two flare-type grenades in the engines of the 1,120-ton submarine Artemis when it was anchored off Scotland's West coast on November 23.

He told a court martial here: "I had no intention whatever of doing serious damage to the ship or of endangering the lives of my shipmates. My only motive was to get the ship back to Portsmouth."

British Diplomatic Employee Gaoled

London, Dec. 16.
Mr Norman Pettigrew, an accountant at the British Embassy in Warsaw, was convicted on Tuesday by a Polish court of manslaughter and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

The charge against Mr Pettigrew followed an incident on October 14 when he was caught to have run over and killed a Polish pedestrian.

Consular

H.E. the Governor under instructions from the Secretary of State, has appointed Mr. J. H. Smith, M.A., to be an assessor for the purpose of the District Revenue Ordinance, 1954, in the District of Hong Kong.

WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THROWING ACID

A young mother who appeared to have been "very badly treated" by the father of her child pleaded guilty at the Criminal Sessions this morning to throwing corrosive acid at him with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Ho Lai-ying, 20, residing at 2415 Shek Kip Mei Village, ground floor, told Mr Justice J. Reynolds that she had been seduced by the complainant's sweet words.

"After the child was born," she added, "he threw both of us away."

Accused was cautioned and bound over in the sum of \$500 for two years.

Mr J. W. D. Hobley, Crown Counsel, stated that on September 16, the accused and the complainant, Lau Koon-fung, boarded a ferry at Shumshuipo for Hongkong. He sat on a bench behind Lau. On the way, there was some conversation between the two.

BURNING LIQUID
As the ferry boat neared Hongkong, the complainant suddenly felt a burning liquid running down the side of his face. He immediately sought the aid of the boat's crew, who washed the liquid off. The accused was caught as she ran down the stairs from the upper to the lower deck. She admitted throwing the liquid.

Ho and Lau were handed over to the Police. The complainant was taken to hospital and found to have superficial burns on the face, chest and thigh. Apparently, Hobley stated, the quick washing by the ferry boat's crew saved him from serious injury.

STRONG SOLUTION
The Government chemist found the liquid thrown at Lau to have been a strong solution of sulphuric, nitric and hydrochloric acids.

In giving her reasons, for the act, accused said she and her child had been on the verge of starvation. This was confirmed by Crown Counsel.

Mr Justice Reynolds rejoined that it would appear she had been very badly treated by the complainant. He said he would treat her leniently, but added that he hoped she would understand that that type of offence was a most serious one.

After passing the sentence, His Lordship asked Mr Hobley if there was anything that could be done for the woman's welfare.

A DESTITUTE
Crown Counsel said he could not think of anything at the moment. The accused was a destitute, he said.

The Judge suggested that she be referred to the Social Welfare Office, saying he felt hers was a case that deserved some help.

After consulting with Divisional Detective Inspector F. Lodge-Buckingham, the Police Officer in charge of the case, Mr Hobley said he was told that the accused had gone to the Social Welfare Office once before. She had declined their assistance when she was told that her child would have to be taken away from her if she was given a job.

His Lordship asked, if that meant the child would have to be taken away permanently.

Fined \$100

A 60-year-old master of a 1,515-pilot motor trading junk, Fung Shing, was fined \$100 by Mr C. Calma at the Marine Court his morning for leaving the junk between 6 p.m. on Wednesday and 6 a.m. the following day without a permit issued by the Director of Marine.

"I intended to leave the Colony at about 5 p.m. But as a result of the breakdown of the engines on board, I could not proceed until 8 p.m.," explained the master. "I know that I was wrong to set sail without a permit at such an hour," he said.

The Prosecution said that while on duty patrol off Cape Collinson at about 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sub-Insp. D. Long and a Police constable intercepted defendant's vessel. Defendants were arrested when he could not produce the permit allowing him to leave the harbour.

Mr F. P. Franklin

Mr F. P. Franklin, Managing Director of the South China Morning Post Ltd, underwent an operation at the Queen Mary Hospital this morning.

They Want To Stay Here For Christmas

Preparations for festivities at the U. Mission to Seamen at Gloucester Road have been started in order to permit sailors to stay for permission to return home for Christmas.

They are the Indonesian crew of the Taski Malay, which was delayed at Hongkong harbour for over two years, while the future was debated by lawyers. Tentative arrangements for them to leave for home yesterday were cancelled after the Indonesian consuls after detected appeals from the men to be allowed to stay on in Hongkong.

They will return home instead early in January.

During their two years here managing the idle Taski Malay, they have attended almost all the Mission functions and have members on its football, boxing, table tennis, snooker, billiards and cards teams.

And they have built up a football team of their own which claims to be the best team's team in the colony.

For more than a year it has taken on all comers and not lost a match.

On their return to Indonesia several hope to find new jobs worthy of their "Hongkong qualification"—they all speak fluent English now.

Battle For Ratification Begins

(Continued from Page 1)

An effort will be made by extreme right-wing deputies tomorrow to postpone the debate on the grounds that the Germans are not acting in good faith about the Franco-German Saar agreement. But they are not expected to be followed by a majority of the Assembly.

POSITIVE PROSPECTS
The prospects for ratification of the Paris agreement remain positive, but Dr. Schuman's request for further talks on ratification cast a cold chill over Parliament.

French political circles said tonight that the Soviet note threatening to denounce the 1944 Franco-Soviet treaty came as a surprise.

They said that the note, delivered to French Ambassador Louis Joxe in Moscow today, followed recent indications that such a move was imminent.

THREE POINTS
Paris circles said three points which emerged from the note:

(1) The Soviet Government pretended to ignore categorical assurances that the Paris agreements were not directed against the USSR.

(2) The Russian pretended to ignore French proposals for talks designed to dispel any Soviet apprehensions on this count.

(3) One portion of the note contained a kind of "appeal to the people" over the heads of the Government, interpreted here as another attempt to exert influence on behalf of the rejection of the Paris agreements by the French National Assembly.

The French circles did not think the Soviet note modified the international situation fundamentally and considered that Four-Power discussions would be possible soon.

These circles still believe that the Four-Power talks could be held next May as suggested by French Premier Pierre Mendes-France recently before the United Nations.

BRITISH VIEW
IN LONDON, authoritative British circles were not unduly surprised by today's Soviet note to France.

They pointed out that it was just one more attempt to exert pressure on the French public and Parliamentary opinion to prevent the ratification of the agreements, and might well not be the last.

What is new in the latest Soviet note, it was said, is the fact that for the first time the Soviet Union seems to have deviated from its policy of hostility to the Paris agreements.

It was pointed out that the Soviet note was a direct challenge to the French Government's position on the Saar question.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.
12. Time Signal and Programme Summary: 0.03 Children's Half Hour Life in the Middle Ages, 0.10 Medieval Town (BBC), 0.20 Popcorn Parade, 0.30 Weather Report, 7. Time Signal and World News (London Relay), 1.10, Commentary (London Relay) or special announcements: 1.15, Artists of the Week—Zino Francescatti (Violin), 1.20, The Cricket, England v. Australia. Report on the 1st day's play in the 2nd Test Match at Sydney (Len O'Reilly), 1.40, "Viewpoint" A Week's Magazine devoted to the Arts, Edited and introduced by G. R. Tomlinson. Reviewed by Mary Vlack "The History of Counting" by E. S. Turner (British Library and Comedies) by Cecil Hunt. Talk by George Blake, F. H. Hunt, Helen Gower, 1.10, Detective, 1.20, Short Story, The Life of Henry Fortune (London Relay), 1.30, Book Review, 1.40, Book Review, 1.50, Book Review, 1.55, Book Review, 2.00, Book Review, 2.05, Book Review, 2.10, Book Review, 2.15, Book Review, 2.20, Book Review, 2.25, Book Review, 2.30, Book Review, 2.35, Book Review, 2.40, Book Review, 2.45, Book Review, 2.50, Book Review, 2.55, Book Review, 3.00, Book Review, 3.05, Book Review, 3.10, Book Review, 3.15, Book Review, 3.20, Book Review, 3.25, Book Review, 3.30, Book Review, 3.35, Book Review, 3.40, Book Review, 3.45, Book Review, 3.50, Book Review, 3.55, Book Review, 4.00, Book Review, 4.05, Book Review, 4.10, Book Review, 4.15, Book Review, 4.20, Book Review, 4.25, Book Review, 4.30, Book Review, 4.35, Book Review, 4.40, Book Review, 4.45, Book Review, 4.50, Book Review, 4.55, Book Review, 5.00, Book Review, 5.05, Book Review, 5.10, Book Review, 5.15, Book Review, 5.20, Book Review, 5.25, Book Review, 5.30, Book Review, 5.35, Book 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